



# Share the Beach



## Sea Turtle Volunteer Program

Newsletter of the USFWS Daphne Ecological Services Field Office

Sept. 24, 2001

### Contact Information:

US Fish &  
Wildlife Service  
251-441-5181  
1-866-SEA-TURTLE  
Ext. 32 or 41  
**New Cell:**  
**251-331-0141**

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Drawer 1190  
Daphne, AL 36526



### Sea Turtle Facts

#### Hawksbill

*Eretmochelys imbricata*

- Prized for tortoiseshell jewelry
- Main food - sponges
- Smaller and more agile than Loggerhead
- Can climb over reefs, rocks, and vegetation to nest

Dear Sea Turtle Volunteers,

We've just had our September meeting at Gulf State Park. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend. In this newsletter we will be going over some of the things we discussed at this meeting along with other information. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday **October 16, 2001** at the Gulf State Park Resort at 6:30 PM. Unfortunately, we've had to change cell phones again. Our new number is **251-331-0141**.

### Minutes

Nest data as of September 18<sup>th</sup> is as follows:

- 37 of 49 nests evaluated
- 9 washed away or missing
- 12 did not hatch
- 16 hatched
- Average of 101 eggs/nest.
- Average incubation period 64 days
- Survival Percentage of 31%

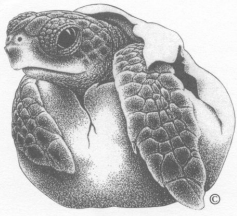
The survival percentage includes the number of hatchlings that escaped from the nest, live piped release later, and those hatchlings that were released from the nest. This is not a percentage of how many turtles reach the water, but rather a percentage of how many turtles make it out of the nest alive per total eggs laid.

### Nests Remaining

Though we only have 9 nests left this season, it is peak storm season and it is important to keep on our toes. Also, if you haven't seen a nest hatch please contact us and we can give you information about team leaders to contact so you can get on their nest sitting list. If you are gung-ho about seeing turtles hatch, be prepared to stay up late for a few nights in a row. Many volunteers had the chance to see a great hatch at Royal Palms on Saturday night. Be persistent. The following is a list of known nests that remain:

7/17- 9/10	Gulf State Park
7/22- 9/15	Crown Point, Orange Beach- Green?: <b>relocated; 46 eggs</b>
7/26- 9/19	#2817 Laguna Key (E16)
7/27- 9/20	West side of Calloway Bridge (E17)
8/1- 9/25	Vacant lot west of 2727 W. Bch. (E18)

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*Share the Beach*



**Alpha** – Orange  
Beach/Perdido

Key

**Charlie** – Gulf  
State Park

**Delta** – Gulf  
Shores Beach

**Echo** – Laguna  
Key & West Beach  
West

**Foxtrot I & II** –  
West Beach East

**Gulf** – Fort  
Morgan



### Definition

**Piped** – a turtle  
that has pierced  
the eggshell, but  
not yet emerged.



8/2- 9/26 1631 W. Bch Blvd. FoxII Loggerhead  
8/6- 9/31 Alabama Point GSP  
8/6- 9/31 Phoenix VII Orange Beach  
8/8- 10/2 Emerald Shores  
9/5- 10/29 1581 West Bch – screened but no eggs found, may be a FALSE  
CRAWL

Congratulations are in order to all of you, as we have had no hatchling deaths due to misorientation. This means that those of you who have helped find and watch these nests are the reason for their survival. Compared to 100% misorientation last year, the initial year of our program can be considered a great beginning and a great success.

### **Data Sheets**

We need data sheets for all nests that have been either excavated, washed away, or have hatched. Following is a list of the nest data sheets we need so far:

1857

2297

2075

2425

22714

1469

Alabama Point- Marked by Normans

1973

Nest East of Callaway Bridge (Foxtrot)

2957

If you have any of these data sheets please mail them to us. On most of them we are missing the crawl data. Do not worry about filling in the excavation data. We did most of the excavations and we will put in that information. This information will be available to everyone once it is compiled. Thank you for your prompt response regarding this matter.

### **Thanks**

We cannot thank you enough for all long hours that you have put in, often under adverse conditions, to make this program a success!

Happy Turtling,

Beth

Nathan

Celeste